



VERMONT

Working Together for Vermont

ACT NO. 208 (S.345) (enacted 2008 Adj. Sess.)

AN ACT RELATING TO LOWERING THE COST OF WORKERS'

COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Sec. 15. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION; DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

(a) The commissioner of labor shall consult with the department of labor advisory council established in 21 V.S.A. § 1306 to review current practices and activities in the following areas:

(1) Insurance carriers providing timely notification to the department of labor of all claimants who have been out of work for 90 consecutive days and requiring the department to provide immediate administrative enforcement for any failure to provide that notification.

(2) Ensuring that all lost-time claimants receive simple, understandable notices of their rights to and how to request vocational rehabilitation services no later than their receipt of their first workers' compensation indemnity benefits.

(3) Enabling timely review and resolution of insurance coverage and payment issues and other disputes arising in the development and implementation of vocational rehabilitation services.

(4) Developing performance standards to measure the success of vocational rehabilitation plans and other appropriate approaches to increase the number of injured workers returning to suitable employment.

(b) The department shall issue a written report to the house committee on commerce and the senate committee on economic development, housing and general affairs on or before November 15, 2009. The report shall outline any deficiencies discovered under subsection (a) of this section and any rules to be adopted to solve the deficiencies.